

"The Crucifixion"  
1941-42

1941-42  
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...a little bit of prayers after football...  
...believe that some people, and some wives...  
...of the very number of... of the last day...  
...into an...  
...another...  
...life. It is a life...  
...planning committee. The rules differ radically with any contest played.  
...it is a "Bowl" into which we must enter and play as though we are fighting  
...for our very lives, because we are. It is a game we ~~cannot~~ lose, and yet the  
...odds are stacked against us from the very first whistle.

Have you ever heard of a game that had a pre-determined score before it ever  
started? All this is exactly the kind of game we are compelled to play in.  
We cannot sit back and say that we do not care to participate. For the fact that  
we are for those who are more skilled than us, or that we are younger...  
...in our place. Some of these things are in this world.  
Paul lists the score before the game begins in the 5th chapter of Galatians, and  
I would like you to turn to that chapter with me and let us look at what he is  
saying. In verse 19, he speaks of the works of the flesh regarding morality.  
I cannot say that we are guilty of all of these, but <sup>we</sup> face the reality of them  
in our daily lives, and in the world in which we live and move. Then in verses  
20 and 21, Paul gives us a list of works of the flesh that are very common to all  
of us, and are which cause us a great deal of grief and concern. If you add all of  
these up, you will come to a total of 19, which means that the game is stacked  
against us even before the whistle. (Of those of you who are questioning by  
the list, which at times is the table, I am using the King James Version,  
and there are 13 things listed there, because we must add, "and such like,"  
because ~~in~~ there are other things which could be added to this list, but have  
not been listed there.)

and then Paul goes on to give the rest of the plan of the Spirit in verse 12. In verse 13, we find there are 3 of these. Thus the verse at the bottom is 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

12 of course would be the beginning of life, birth. We are born into a world in which all of the adverse things are present. God didn't plan it this way, but because of man turning from God, sin came into the world and because of this we all fall heir to it. But God has provided us with the same plan which if followed, will lead to defeat of the flesh, even though we are the underdog in this fight.

I believe that as we stand at the very beginning of this another unknown quantity, a new year, we need to put this same plan into action in our lives and strive to carry out our strategy to fight our opponent and seek victory. We can find this plan throughout all of God's Word, but Paul gives it to us in simplified form in 3 verses of this morning's scripture. The first part is found in verse 16.

"We are in the Spirit." Basically if we walk in the Spirit we will overcome all of the opponents of the flesh, and specifically as Paul points out, "the lust of the flesh." ~~This new plan of overcoming the fleshly works is found in verse 19.~~

The first notice in each of these verses we will be dealing with is that our daily speaking of our actions being motivated by the Holy Spirit. But we first of all to walk in the Spirit means that our lives become a reflection of what we are to be. It means that we not only profess to have Christ in our hearts, but we show Him in the way we live daily.

(Illustration of little boy and canary)

This is what we each need to declare to God this day, "that we do not want to keep anything in our lives that will hurt God." We talk about doing away with the old desires and habits in our lives each new year. We like New Year's resolutions to be better and do better in the New Year. What better way to start than to rid ourselves of the things that hurt and offend God and grieve the heart of the Lord Jesus. We need to look within and find the tinsel toys of

the world that are so full of sin and sorrow. Let us then live  
for God.

The New Testament of Scripture that will give us the new plan for everyone is  
found in the 10th verse. Here Paul writes "be led by the Spirit."

(Illustration of obituary, man complaining, editor to him name in birth column)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Wouldn't it be terrific if we could start over today? We think of  
new beginnings but too often they never materialize because we are too lazy, or  
we can't feel, "that's the use! No one can know." Or we may feel that it is  
too late in life. But whatever our reason, for not making new starts and having  
a fresh viewpoint in our lives, it is not too late to resolve to begin today.

And the best place to start is to begin with God's guidance. To be led by Him.  
Lita Brown tells us on a commercial that a day without orange juice is like a  
day without sunshine. We could paraphrase this and state it, "A day without the  
Bible is like a day without sunshine." So if you do not read your Bible every-  
day, you are missing the meaning of this reality. So those of you who do not read your  
Bibles, I would urge you to do so. A regular systematic reading of the Scripture  
will not only help you to understand what God has done in the past, but will give  
you the opportunity to let His word go to your heart and lead you in the direction  
He wants your life to take.

You may feel or say that you do not have the time, or that you do not like to  
read etc, etc. But almost all of us read the newspaper right? If we can find  
time to read the paper, we can reserve a few minutes to read God's Word. This  
isn't asking too much of anyone, and if you can find strength and help for each  
day through it, it is time well spent. I cannot completely convince any of you  
of the benefits derived from God's Word, because you cannot completely understand  
it until you see for yourself. ~~XX~~  
~~XX~~ Why not resolve that this will be the year in which  
you not only read God's Word daily, but the year in which you are going to change  
your life, by His revelation to you of Himself.

We think ~~XXXXXX~~ verse of Scripture is God's plan for us is to be found in

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS JANUARY 2, 1977  
 THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR  
 MRS. WALLACE FEDER, ORGANIST  
 MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR  
 BRENDA MARBURGER, DAN BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE "POEM" DENTON  
 \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 63 "OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"  
 \*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*EXHORTATION  
 \*CONFESSION "ETERNAL FATHER, TEACH US IN THE DAYS OF  
 THIS YEAR TO DISCOVER THE PRECIOUSNESS OF TIME. KEEP  
 US FROM SQUANDERING OUR HOURS IN SENSELESS THOUGHT  
 AND USELESS ACTIVITIES. HELP US THROUGH GOOD BOOKS,  
 CLEAN CONVERSATION, AND CREATIVE ACTION TO GO NUMBER  
 OUR DAYS THAT WE MAY GET A HEART OF WISDOM, AND A LIFE  
 DEVOTED TO THY RECONCILING MINISTRY IN THE WORLD;  
 THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. AMEN."  
 \*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)  
 \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN  
 \*PRAISE  
 \*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.  
 \*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE  
 \*DOXOLOGY No. 551 *LITTLE REARMS GEN 45,6*  
 SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5 *LET US BEGIN 77.*  
 REQUIEM OBSERVANCE:  
 RALPH T. KILLEAN GEORGE L. DAVIS  
 NORA B. THOMPSON RUBY H. GROSSMAN  
 JOHN K. WILSON EVERETT H. MCCANOLESS  
 AMELIA OREHER MABEL SANDBACH (PAST MEMBER)  
 HYMN No. 418 "FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABORS REST"  
 CALL TO PRAYER  
 PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU  
 PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT  
 PASTOR: LET US PRAY  
 PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE  
 OFFERING  
 OFFERTORY "LITANY" SCHUBERT  
 A MEM: "HE" - SOLO BY KAREN MALONEY

SERMON: "THE FRUITBOWL"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 35 "LORD, DISMISS US WITH  
 THY BLESSING"

BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "PRAISE TO THE LORD, ALMIGHTY" WILSON

----- \*CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. RODNEY RENSEL IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE

"GRANDPARENTS"

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: \*ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KAMMER, CHARLES PENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. RICHARD MANGEL WILL BE AT THE DOOR

TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SANDY SHEPPECK

AND BONNIE VENSEL.

> HOSPITALIZED: RICHARD CROUSE - MERCY HOSPITAL.

DR. HOMER FILSON - BOWH.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BOOKS ARE CLOSED ANYTHING

NOW WILL BE PLACED IN 1977 BOOKS.

PLEASE ONLY USE NEW ENVELOPES AND DO NOT USE OLD ONES.

THE NUMBERS CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND IT CAN GET  
 VERY CONFUSING.

> WED. - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURS. - 7:00 - BIBLE STUDY IN THE UNDERCROFT

THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY - PLEASE  
 HAVE ALL THE MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

THE ARC CLASS WILL HAVE A DINNER AND WILL GO TO SEE

THE LITTLE THEATER PLAY "AVANTI" (COMEDY) - JAN. 22.

DINNER WILL BE AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE ELKS. YOU CAN

COME TO ONE OR BOTH. EVERYONE WILL ORDER THEIR MEAL

SEPARATELY. RESERVATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY

JANUARY 9TH. PLEASE CALL AFTER 6:00 P.M. JEANNIE

MCBRIDE - 283-8980 OR DELORES BOTACCHI - 287-7294.

WE WILL NEED SOMEONE FOR FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK (9TH).

ALSO THE 23RD, AND THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY. IF YOU WOULD

POSSIBLY WANT ONE OF THESE DATES - PLEASE LEAVE BEA

TAIT KNOW IN THE OFFICE.

THE STAIR-GLIDE, NEW ALTAR CLOTH AND PORTABLE FLOOR

MOORE SOUND LECTERN WILL BE DEDICATED NEXT SUNDAY.

> JAN 10 - ST. PAUL'S NEEDS PEOPLE TO GO TO SUNNYVIEW

AT 1:00 - PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP SING AND ETC.



Text: Galatians 5:13-23  
Scripture: Galatians 5

(It was little boy, football game & prayers)  
live, bowl games & screen=ris: uncom reveal, "truthbow"  
"I am Bowl, Bowl we play ea everyday lif  
this lif any contest played, yet, game must enter &  
must live as the lif depend, cuz it live  
we dare no lose, but olds stick against free start  
we lord game score pre-determ: this game we involv  
list scor 5 dal, (turn : 0), vs 19 writs flesh  
1st Memorial, 20-21 com on 2 all/add up & get 12  
2nd quest or mth (it question) JF=12, such like  
Jas 22, 23, writs spirit=9, at kick-off 11 12, 13 2  
unfow quant=4 us & thus put game plan in2 action  
giv us this 5 vs

12=vs 13=12, show Xp in habits & how liv daily  
(It was little boy & canary)

2nd declar 2 4, need do away old desir, habits  
but better way rid selves thing hurt, griev lord J's?  
need look within & find tiseel toys world kept  
higher & down only 2 & 3 us, then discards them  
20=vs 11=12 (It was man & bit & start)

Such a terrif if cud start over? Au Bgins & xxx  
Starts no can do, or who cares, 2 lazy or 2 late  
It not 2 late 2 resolv 2 Bgin 2day & best place  
2 start is 2's guidance, 2 B LLD by Him  
Inita tryant=ex without or juic lif day without sun  
care=ay without bible lif day without sunshine  
2 thoz who read, know truth state, 2 thoz who do not,  
ung 2 read regularly, systematically

2 this liv out 2 let 2's eat 2 1, direct br lif  
no tie=read news?=hav tie & read lib  
I came convinc until U try 4 self,

2 do not resolv this B yr which & chang br lif  
20=vs 25=12, say=12=5 exam, 20=1's lord open  
2nd 12=2 stand 4th with boldness & tell word/deed  
(It was man & bit & start)

2 his wat avious rec'd 2 12, we 3 honest servants  
need tell inventory selves, families regularly  
spiritually as well

Questions: Am I tilid fence straddler?

" " ashamed 2 mention J's Xp outside circl  
of friends?

" " week=need, 2 peop no know I Avian?  
12, or uncert need determ this yr 2 score

12 don't score indiv 4 us=1 1, 2 2, 3 3, 4 4 com  
world as 2 in 4 us is gone. Instead 2 victor/defea  
2nd us: 12, 2 12, 12V in 2 at 2 direct this 12 12

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)



SEP 56









Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.